

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

The general public expects objective reporting from the media, there is not supposed to be prejudice one way or the other. Such is no longer the case. When putting forward the "news" we expect our news reports to be honest and fair. When this is no longer the case, the disintegration of our country is enabled. Money and power have more power than doing a fair and accurate job.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.